

by eric berger

See me, feel me, touch me

Freshman Welcome, held yesterday in Redpath Hall, gave new McGill students a view of what may be in store for them during their stay at McGill: limited interaction.

The students milling around in the hall talked mainly with people they already knew, while faculty members walked aimlessly across the floor, passively waiting for a student to strike up a conversation.

For the most part, the students who attended the introduction program were interested in finding out more about McGill, and representatives from faculty and from student clubs and services seemed ready to tell them.

But it just didn't work.

The atmosphere that pervades McGill seemed to permeate the hall. There were many small and isolated groups. Perhaps the atmosphere was best epitomized by the music provided:

"... See me... feel me... touch me..."

These strains from The Who's "Tommy" underscored the spirit of the event. The hero of "Tommy", if you will remember, is a social outcast, a pariah. He

cannot speak; he cannot hear; he cannot see. Are this year's freshmen to become equally isolated at McGill?

The most appealing part of the reception seemed to be the refreshment room. Many students were drawn to the free food offered there, and it soon took on a more lively appearance than the main hall. Several students who attended primarily for the food said they were satisfied.

Stanley Frost, Vice-Principal (Professional Affairs) expressed disappointment in Freshman Welcome.

"The coffee is bad," he said.

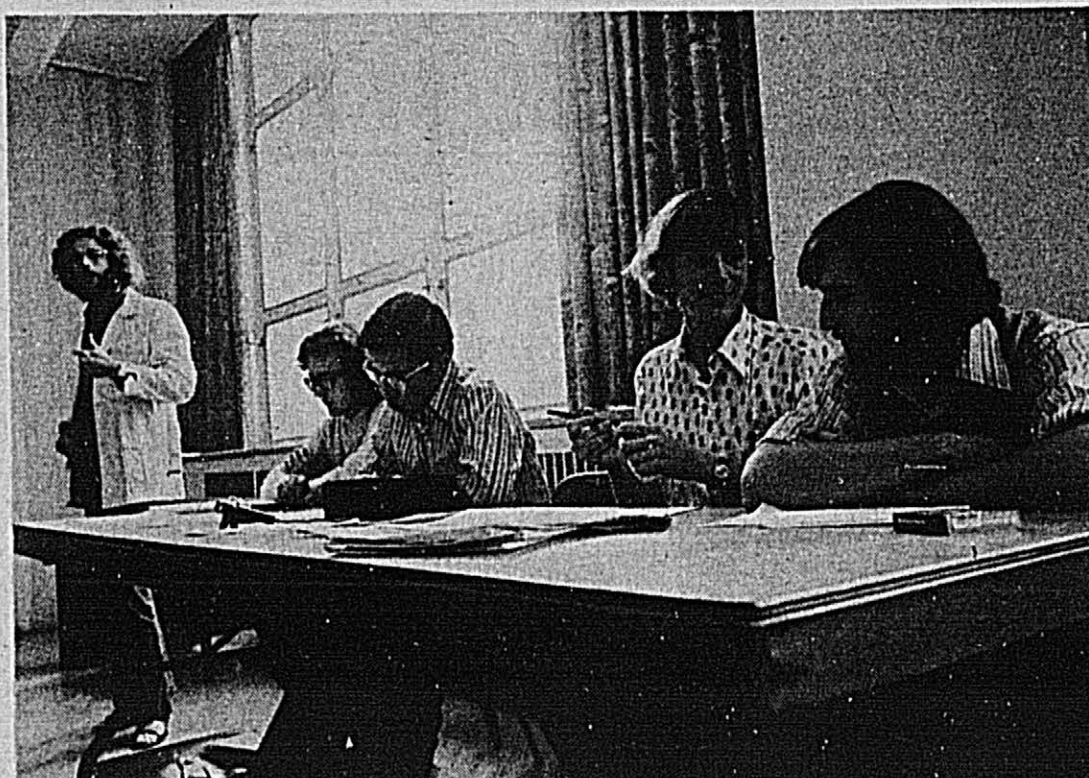
Frost added that he felt the purpose of Freshman Welcome was to bring about meetings between students and faculty and also to encourage encounters between different groups of students. He thought this could be achieved by breaking students down into smaller groups, through the services and the clubs.

He seemed to believe, however, that the decline of the fraternity system in the last five years has had an adverse effect on this process.



daily photo by jean-michel joffe

SEVERAL HUNDRED FRESHMEN and untold numbers of non-freshmen crowded Redpath Hall during Freshman Reception, Tuesday. Several non-freshmen reported that the hot dogs were terrible.



daily photo by harold rosenberg

THE EUS EXECUTIVE looks on as Students' Society Gabor Zinner (far left) addresses open meeting.

by nigel gibson

E.U.S. open meeting poorly attended

The Engineering Undergraduate Society held an open meeting yesterday to discuss the possible restructuring of the Students' Society. Secession was in the air, but despite the best efforts of their executive to whip up interest in the matter, few engineers appeared to notice—or care.

Less than fifty students turned up in the McConnell common room, to hear EUS President Jan Peeters describe a number of options available to the engineering body.

Of those present in the meeting approximately half were from faculties other than engineering, including the three members of the Students' Society executive, President Gabor Zinner, and Vice-Presidents Whitney Hardy

and David Weiner.

Since the EUS constitution stipulates that for an open meeting to be effective, a quorum of fifty is required, the assembly limited itself to a rather monotonous recounting of positions and problems, that, as Peeters himself stated, "have been around for the last twenty years."

That however, did not serve to discourage the EUS President from launching into a long, drawn-out history of familiar grievances, invoking everything from the lack of "effective and significant democracy" to the spectre of "financial mismanagement."

Peeters' listing of the options available, varied the whole length of the spectrum from the preservation of the status quo, and the

continuance of actual fiscal and governmental structures, to the destruction of the present system, with absolute fiscal autonomy on a faculty level and the "end of the Students' Society as we know it."

Perhaps exasperated by the dismal turnout, Peeters was in a petulant, angry mood all through the meeting. He also had a few cards up his sleeve.

When University Affairs Director Will Hoffman attempted to explain some of the difficulties inherent in the mechanics of secession, Peeters interrupted him with a loud comment to the effect that "it all depends who you ask."

The EUS president then revealed that, over the summer he and a couple of other executives

continued on page 3

by joan mandell

Residence demand exceeds supply

An inability to accommodate the increase in applications to McGill's residences this year has left many students searching the streets of Montreal for homes.

Director of Residences John Southin blames this on bureaucracy, and in particular on a weakness in the application procedure. Due to faulty communications, forty or more students expecting residence rooms found themselves homeless.

The International Students' Association helped find apartments for some of the students.

McGill's admissions office also seems to have done a poor job. One student accepted to McGill never heard from residences and

assumed he had a room, but upon arrival in Montreal found himself to be number 200 on a waiting list.

In years past such a problem would not have occurred on as wide a scale. Two years ago, vacancies prompted the administration to consider closing one residence. This year an estimated 300 interested people could not be accommodated.

Southin theorizes that the increased popularity is due to different and increased advertising, a cyclical phenomenon, and the fact that the residences are more open and self-governed than before. Some residents attribute the rise in popularity to last year's

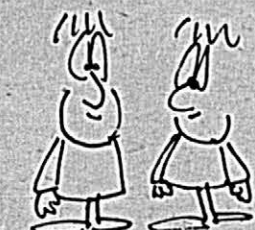
change on the hill from male to co-ed.

Most new residents are foreign, don't know Montreal, want to meet people and make friends quickly, don't want to worry about house-keeping, and assume that residence will offer them certain conveniences.

Returning students express many of the same opinions as the freshmen but also have discovered that it would cost them too much money or bother to live out. Many enjoy residence life, have a group of friends there, and people to help them with their schoolwork. Others feel there is no other adequate option open to them.

LEAN AND HUNGRY/BY GEORGE KOPP

ONLY SIX
TEDIOUS
WEEKS
TILL THE
ELECTION.
KNOW WHO
YOU'RE
VOTING
FOR?



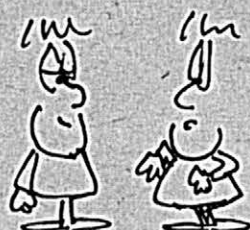
YUP.
I'M VOTING
NDP. I
REALLY
ADMIRE
DAVID
LEWIS.

THAT'S
PRETTY
DECISIVE
FOR A
WAFFLER.



I LIKE THE
WAY HE
TALKS.
'CORPORATE
TAX RIPOFF,'
'CORPORATE
WELFARE
BUM,'
GREAT
STUFF!

THAT'S
NOTHING.
ME, I'M
VOTING
FOR
TRUDEAU.



YOU KNOW
WHEN HE WAS
IN MONTREAL?
I SAW HIM, AND
I ASKS HIM, 'WHAT
ABOUT THE STARVING
CHILDREN IN
ST. HENRI,'
I ASKS HIM.



HE SAYS,
"EAT SHIT."
IMAGINE, ME,
LI'L OLE ME,
HE SAYS TO
"EAT SHIT."
GEE.



WHAT'D
HE
SAY?

HOW'D IT
TASTE?



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TENNIS

All full time male students interested in playing on the McGill Tennis Team are asked to contact Bob Dubeau in room 6, of the Currie Gym as soon as possible.

BOWLING

Men—anyone interested in bowling for McGill in the City Intercollegiate Bowling League (10 pins) is asked to contact the Intramural Department, room 6, in the Currie Gym. Two 4 man teams will be chosen to play on Saturdays at Pare and Laurentian Lanes. First matches are scheduled for October 14th.

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Arrivals from the South:

Cold Comfort

Pour 1½ ounces of Southern Comfort over crushed ice. Add a twist of lemon.

Comfort Screwdriver

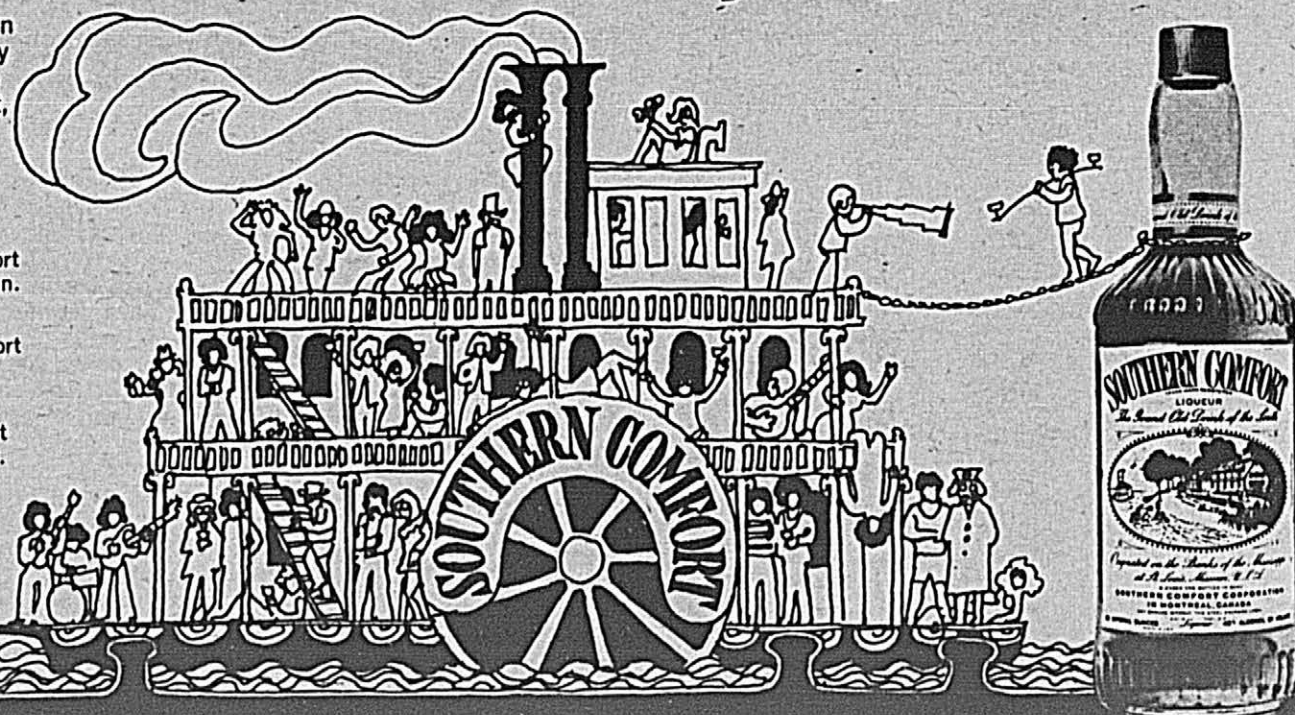
Pour 1½ ounces of Southern Comfort over ice. Top up with orange juice.

Comfort Collins

Mix 1½ ounces of Southern Comfort with the juice of a quarter of a lime. Add some ice. Fill the glass with lemon-lime drink.

Try these, too:

Comfort 'n' Cola,
Comfort and Tonic,
Comfort Daiquiri, etc., etc.





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letters

An open letter to Principal Bell and his Campus Protector concerning the campus beatings.

Sir,

September 5 was a day like most other days in recent times. Bombs rained on what life remains in Vietnam; a nationalist orgy was taking place in West Germany (and dignified with the name "Olympic Spirit") while Palestinians told the world of their frustrations, as did Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland, and the Middle East was, as usual, close to the brink. And on that very same day our very own Campus Protector initiated a chain reaction which brought violence to our campus.

Having initiated this action, our Campus Protector walked away to go about his business. Of course, Mr. Principal, it was not for his eyes to witness the scuffles, the rude words, and the broken nose. There are others best qualified to make sure that we are kept pure. But, Mr. Principal, what has happened will haunt your administration and cast a shadow over its competence and integrity. Having by a series of bungled administrative measures and poor judgement allowed violence

to take place, would you tell us now what actions you might take if the chain reaction is not yet complete? Are we to anticipate more violence if those aggrieved return with a more serious purpose? Will violence once committed fester more violence? Will you then stand before us and say that it was "my administration" which lit the first spark? Or will you say that all could have been prevented if students, or others, had shown the "most elementary level of courtesy" when they were asked to identify themselves. That will then be sufficient explanation.

Should we show confidence in an administration which creates violence which you and others so abhor? Are we really secure in the arms of our Campus Protector?

On September 5 the world fathered enough violence, enough hate, enough oppression. It comes to us from all directions. Is it asking too much that it should not come from our own administration? We want men at the top who think.

Mr. Principal, we might even accept the content of your Statement to Senate last Wednesday. Yes, there was much bungling. What had been started could not be stopped. You wanted the outcome to be different. Let us accept

that. But in your Statement you offer little indication of remorse. Yes, you did tell us, in an oblique sort of way: We were wrong. This is progress. But the sore remains. Have the instincts been curbed? Has the flush and surge of power (Call Security?) abetted?

Our Administrators are our servants. We must trust their ability to administer. We want to trust our Administrators—perhaps even our Campus Protector. We all know that situations can arise which might call for very unpleasant measures. But when such critical situations arise, we must then be sure that wisdom and humanity combine to arrive at solid judgements. Our administration will tell us that they act in fairness and in the best interest of "the majority". These are worthy and important convictions, but they must also be seen to be believed. This is, I believe, an old principle of civilization and law.

Mr. Principal, I am writing this Open Letter in support of nobody. Nor am I writing this Open Letter in hatred or contempt, although I want to make it clear that I question whether we need a Campus Protector. I am writing this Open Letter to indicate my dismay, my fears that the next time round we might be faced with a more seri-

ous situation. And then can we trust the good judgement of our administration? There is such a thing as sacred violence, to right a terrible injustice, to protect the innocent, even to restore humanity. But there is also mindless violence which will always beget further mindless violence. True enough, the actual physical blows were not struck by the University—but that is little consolation.

Mr. Principal, we must assume that this University, like other universities, must maximize human, distinctly human, rationality. But the event of September 5 seems to me to indicate the contrary.

There might be many on this campus who might feel that our Campus Protector did the right thing—and that you tried to patch things up as well as you could. Perhaps. Please, Mr. Principal, do not assume that those who might express this view represent a clear and absolute majority. Yet, who knows, they might be. But there are some on this campus who deplore what happened, however minor the event. There are those who will be silent, and other who might share my fears, dismay and humiliation. Just a few, a very few, Mr. Principal.

Peter C.W. Gutkind,
Professor of Anthropology

by ben spector

Canadian immigration policy condemned

Subir Roy, a former McGill student facing deportation to India, spoke at the Union Monday night and affirmed the right of Indians and other immigrants to resist the discriminatory policies of the Canadian government and the Immigration Department.

Roy came to Canada in 1953 at the age of six. "I went through the entire school system here, attending McGill and Dalhousie University in Halifax," he said.

"I speak only English and French, the official languages of Canada, and have no ties in India."

"The Immigration Department has 'accused' me of being an Indian. Well, that is just fine! I am proud of that!" Roy declared.

Roy described the fate of Indian immigrants in Canada: "The colonialists promised the Indians a land of milk and honey in Canada and North America, but instead used them as cheap labour. The Indian immigrants have been discriminated against in terms of jobs and housing, socially intimidated, and politically repressed. The Indian immigrants have never ceased to struggle against this oppression."

"So charge me with being an Indian if you will, but just remember, the Indian people have never allowed themselves to be trampled upon. It is much better to be killed physically than to be killed emotionally. Just try and throw me out and see what happens."

Roy was ordered deported from Canada on September 3, 1971. On August 22, 1972, just one day before his appeal, he received a letter signed by the Solicitor General and the Minister of Manpower stating "that it would be contrary to the national interest" for the Immigration Appeal Board to take any action about his deportation.

"It is perfectly clear," Roy concluded, "that my 'criminality' consists of serving the national minority and Canadian people. I am a supporter of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) and the Communist Party of Quebec (Marxist-Leninist). That is my biggest crime of all."

Engineers . . .

continued from page 1

tives from different undergraduate societies had met privately with Vice-Principal Stanley Frost to work out the details for splitting the student body. Apparently Frost had proved to be most accommodating, and had assured them that a well concerted secession movement would be favourably received in Senate and would have no difficulty in being approved.

Students' Society President Gabor Zinner stated that he felt that the advantages of a united student body far outweighed the disadvantages, and that splitting the student body would be playing into the hands of the Administration.

Zinner also announced that he intended to establish a reserve fund to subsidize the undergraduate societies and provide them with the extra money they've been asking for. With the assembly dwindling rapidly, the meeting was adjourned, to be continued today, at the same time and in the same place.

today

SIMS-MCGILL: Introductory talk explaining transcendental meditation as taught by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. All welcome. L214 1 pm.

LIBERATION SCHOOL: Community Education divisional meeting. Union Ballroom, 6 pm. Women's studies divisional meeting. Union Ballroom, 7:30 pm.

SANDWICH THEATRE: Free performance of "Winnie the Pooh". Union Ballroom, 7:30 pm.

SECOND-HAND BOOK SALE:

This service is run by students for students. We can't do it without you. We need your books! Receiving in Union B26, 12-2, 5-9.

BLOOD DRIVE: We need entertainers to sing and dance. Volunteers also needed to work before and during blood drive. Help needed in publicity (faculty reps), internal promotions, residences, transportation, art, prizes, etc. Interested? Contact Mona Sidler, Union room 464. 392-8947.

HILLEL STUDENTS' SOCIETY:

Free falafel, kosher meals daily 12-2pm, sukkah building on lower campus 3 pm. 3460 Stanley St. **LATIN AMERICAN SOCIETY:** Welcomes all new students and old members and invites them for a general meeting: Report from last year's activities and election of new executives. Union 327, 5pm.

MCGILL BRANCH OF THE NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY: Organizing meeting. Yes, there are working class people in this district. 1 pm, Union basement.

HEVRA: Want to help raise the consciousness of the Quebec Jewish community? The first meeting for this year's edition of *Hevra* (yes, that's a newspaper) is at 3460 Stanley at 5 pm.

A new consciousness in the Italian community

by Joseph Gargiso

Since the St-Léonard crisis of 1968, the Italian community has undergone positive development. The seeds of racism sown that year are being slowly uprooted and many in the community have begun to realize the need for increased collaboration with French-speaking workers. This is the result of development in Quebec society in general and the labour unions in particular.

The St-Léonard conflict itself—that is, the tension, propaganda, and confrontation between the two ethnic groups—is still widely misunderstood, in that situation the language issue, a just cause, was used to divide the two communities: Italians and French.

In fact, nationalist elements such as Raymond Lemieux, of the now defunct Ligue pour l'Intégration Scolaire, and Reggie Chartrand identified Italians as the enemies of the Québécois and developed the language issue along racist lines. Meanwhile their counterparts in the Italian community—a group composed mainly of construction contractors interested in turning St-Léonard into an Italian district under their control and isolating it from other ethnic communities—did the same and pushed Italians to the point of physically fighting the demonstrators. They hired goons to ensure that a violent confrontation would take place.

The situation on the night of the language demonstration was allowed to deteriorate into violence with the help of the St-Léonard municipal administration, which has extremely close ties with local Italian notables. The ties were so close that the Québec government is now inquiring into the corruption of that very administration.

Everything possible was done

to divide the two communities and especially the workers. The English press did not abstain. In fact, only weeks after the demonstration the Gazette published an article saying that since Italians were the third largest ethnic community in Quebec, they should decide what language was to be spoken. Such provocations kept the issue alive for quite some time after the actual confrontation.

The development of the Italian community

Nevertheless, the situation in the Italian community, as in the Francophone community, is changing. In order to understand the changes in the structure and development of the community, one must consider the history of the community and the forces now active within it.

Most of the Italian immigrants came to Canada in a twenty-year period after World War II. The war, in addition to twenty years of fascism, had left Italy in a miserable condition. Particularly affected were the southern regions where the land is concentrated in the hands of a feudal aristocracy and where there is very little industry. But the developing Canadian economy needed workers, and so the immigrants came and settled in Canadian industrial centres such as Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, Sudbury, and Vancouver.

Because of their ignorance of French or English, their low level of education, and their misinformation, the immigrants tended to congregate with their compatriots. This trend, favoured by the governments, led to the formation of ethnic districts. In Montreal the Italian districts are the Jean Talon-Papineau area, Dante-St-Laurent, Ville Emard, St-Michel, Ahuntsic, and St-Léonard.

There are presently 350,000 Italians in Quebec, most of them

workers employed mainly in the construction, textile, and service industries. A small percentage have enriched themselves through their "dynamism" and "dexterity" in exploiting the Italian worker both as a consumer and as a source of cheap labour.

Nearly 90 per cent of these immigrants were part of the primary, or agricultural sector of the economy, tilling their own plots of land or those of large landowners.

Life in the small towns and villages was one of misery and subjection to ruthless exploitation, but the backward attitudes of these people impeded their participation in working-class organizations. Obligated to emigrate, they were suddenly transplanted into an industrial environment and were subjected to a more sophisticated form of exploitation which obscured to many their real position in society. Working-class consciousness-raising groups like the Mouvement Progressiste Italo-Québécois are therefore faced with the situation where persons come to fill the ranks of the industrial proletariat but retain a good part of their peasant mentality: fear, superstition, and respect for private property and the ruling class.

The greatest obstacles to the immigrants' integration with the Quebec working class are the structures existing in the Italian community.

Government agencies operating through intermediaries in the community have always directed the immigrants towards the hardest and lowest-paying jobs.

Furthermore, the concentration of immigrants in specific districts allows the religious institutions to exercise effective control over their lives. It was not unusual a few years ago to hear some priest inciting Italians not to take part in the social life of Quebec, not to participate in strikes, and not to unite with other workers in their discontent.

The creation of these ghettos has also permitted the development of a group of businessmen who have enriched themselves through controlling the mass media and through exploiting this market of 350,000 consumers. To these must be added the construction contractors and members of the liberal professions, who participate in the exploitation of the Italian immigrant.

New forces

Many new forces are causing change in the Italian community. The collapse of the Union Nationale in the 1970 elections has contributed to this process of change. The Italian notables had been militant supporters of the Union Nationale, which repaid them by giving them a free hand in the community. Now these notables have had to slowly make the shift to the Liberal Party and to conform to its more "liberal" concept of control.

Three Years Ago

St-Léonard, Québec: Wednesday, September 10, 1969. A coalition of French-Canadian nationalist groups clashes with Italians in the northern Montreal district of St-Léonard. The issue is language—the Italian minority of the Le Royer Regional School Board wants to educate its children in English, while the Québécois majority has decreed that schools under the jurisdiction of the Board teach only in French. The following paragraphs are part of an article which appeared in the *McGill Daily* on September 15, 1969. The article by Lysiane Gagnon originally appeared in French in *La Presse*.

"The rumor goes around that 'the Italians' are all together in a park, or again that 'they're gathered in little groups in front of the pizzerias... with rocks'. Everybody says, 'It's going to blow up'. But blow up between whom? This new adversary, 'The Italian', that nobody knows but everybody imagines—boiling, unpredictable, in the iron grip of the Mafia—a caricature, this new adversary, which appears to be feared even more than the police, whose plays are by now familiar to French Canadian demonstrators...

"There are students, there are left-wing anglophone independentists, there are ex-RIN militants, members of the Ligue pour l'Intégration Scolaire, of the Front de Libération Populaire, of the Mouvement Syndical et Politique, and also the unattached, youths and jobless, and finally the toughs, the real toughs, motorcyclists penetrating the ranks. Suddenly concentrated here is a whole range of attitudes, from the more or less racist right to the radical left.

"To be sure, all are not here for the same reasons. If one fellow declares to me in an incoherent speech about 'salami vendors' that 'the Italians, they are c... of a race', another explains that 'the demonstration is not directed against the Italians: St-Léonard is the focal point of a national problem... and maybe when there have been enough demonstrations, enough riots, the government will decide to act, to give us the means to live in French'. It is people like him who, in the course of the march, will call out the slogan, 'Italiens—Québécois'...

"The crowd is like the sea, stirred by currents, noisy, with sudden tides. Two Molotov cocktails land in flames between demonstrators and police, and the latter reply with tear gas grenades... Farther on, about a hundred Italian counter-demonstrators hurl rocks into the first rows of demonstrators. Again the retreat at a run... And suddenly anger swells from the depths of the crowd: 'We'll show them we are 85 per cent of the population'...

"Raked by police motorcycles, which at times run into the middle of the crowd, some demonstrators are breaking the glass panes of storefronts. A passerby tells us, in French with an Italian accent: 'It's so stupid, they're smashing the storefronts of Franco-Italians'. He is very calm, like the taxi-driver who will soon pick us up, and who will say simply: 'Listen, if you want to go back there (into St-Léonard), I'll take down my card... I was born in France, but I have an Italian name.'

"So you say to yourself: there's a misunderstanding. French Canadians fighting Italians... the little man against the little man. The B and B report shows it clearly, Italians and French Canadians are always together, at the bottom of the scale, poorer, less 'well placed', less educated than every other ethnic group.

"At the very end of the demonstration, a young man took the microphone and addressed the crowd: 'Our enemies are not here, they are in Westmount, in the Town of Mount Royal...' and voices cry out: 'That's where we will go next time... and into St. James Street'."

Even though they have switched their party allegiance, reactionary elements in the community have fought a rearguard action to maintain their stringent control and to impede any unity with other ethnic groups. Here are just two examples of their schemes during the past year:

(1) Following a racist article against Sicilians written by François Hertel, an old-line French-Canadian nationalist, in the *Medical and Para-Medical Review*, "leaders" of the community suddenly presented themselves as defenders of Italians against racial discrimination. They made this move only to launch racist attacks on the Fran-

cophones, to reap financial benefits in calling for the unity of all Italian associations, and to consolidate their hold on the community.

The initial meeting of these "leaders", held at the Maison d'Italie, was disrupted by the MPIQ. Consequently the only plan which was put into effect was the formation of the Federation of Italian Associations (FAI). However, the FAI came to be controlled by liberal elements represented by the editor of *Il Cittadino Canadese*, one of the three Italian papers in Montreal. The more conservative associations then withdrew from the FAI.

(2) During the general strike of

IL LAVORATORE

ORGANO DEL MOVIMENTO PROGRESSISTA ITALO-QUEBECCHESSE

VOL. 3 NO. 1-2

MONTREAL FEBBRAIO 1972

Lavoratori
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SI ESPANDE LA LOTTA



Nella foto sopra: un gruppo dei lavoratori intervenuti all'assemblea del 12: uno dei tanti interventi.

Quebec public employees, a representative of Maison d'Italie told the media that 350,000 Italians supported the Liberal government against the striking workers of the Common Front. This association, composed of a mere handful of businessmen, made this gesture with the intention of dividing Italian and Francophone workers.

The following day a bomb composed of three sticks of dynamite was, in a strangely coincidental chain of events, "discovered" by a passer-by and dismantled by police just two minutes before it was supposed to explode.

While police hypothesized that the bomb was the reaction of trade unionists to the declaration, a representative of Maison d'Italie the next day made a declaration, published in the *Gazette*, in which he accused the Italian Revolutionary Front of planting the bomb.

A third, not improbable, hypothesis, which no one enunciated, was that the Maison d'Italie association planted the bomb themselves.

Actions such as these are being openly opposed and criticized by progressive and even liberal forces in the community; a state of affairs that would have been unheard of just a few years ago.

The Need for a Workers' Organization

Faced with a situation in which the "trinomio" of the church, the businessmen, and the Mafia exert a rigorous control over the Italian community, progressive elements have recognized the need for a

political movement.

Combatting racism, making the workers conscious of the need to unite with other Quebec workers, and making them realize the importance of organization are initial tasks of the utmost importance.

Organizing at the workplace is extremely important, particularly in the textile industry where Italian women earn an average salary of \$60 to \$65 a week with no job security. This remains an objective, but the development of an organization in the community is of primary importance.

Direct action is needed to demystify the "trinomio" and thus eliminate some existing barriers. Such activity gives the new militants political and organizational experience, which will be very useful later on in organizing at the place of work.

Destroying the control exercised over the Italian workers in the community is one of the primary tasks of the *Mouvement Progressiste Italo-Québécois*, a political movement of workers and students.

MPIQ

The MPIQ was formed in 1970 by a group of university students who began to publish a monthly newspaper, *Il Lavoratore* (The Worker). Distributed free of charge in the community, it serves as the organ of the Movement: publishing analyses of political events and economic situations which affect workers, providing information which the Italian

media does not report, and most of all, serving as an organization around which Italian workers can rally.

During 1970 the Movement began to establish contacts with workers in the community, and in June 1971 it opened its first district committee headquarters in the Jean Talon/Papineau area at 2034 Everett. The majority of its members are presently workers.

Having consolidated this committee, the Movement set up another a few months ago in the St-Michel area. It is in the initial stages of development.

Last year attempts were made to publish a paper in English, *Progressive Student*, intended mainly for Italian students in the universities. Its main function was to make students conscious of the conditions of Italian workers in Quebec and bring them to participate in the work being done by the MPIQ in the community.

Furthermore, the Movement maintains constant contacts with the trade union movement and with other progressive organizations in Montreal.

Struggles

Realizing the importance of political education, the Movement frequently organizes public meetings on various issues and, when possible, participates in workers' demonstrations and strikes.

Two of the most important struggles organized and led by the Movement since its inception have been:

(1) A small but significant demonstration, against the

Drapeau administration for increasing the water tax in August 1971.

(2) The struggle waged by the MPIQ against two Italian churches: Notre Dame de la Consolata and Notre Dame de Pompei. This was by far the most militant struggle and involved large numbers of Italian workers.

The two parishes had employed the medievalistic *Loi des Fabriques* to impose a 12-year tax of \$1 per \$1,000 of property value on nearly 6,000 home owners.

Two meetings, in which over 300 and 1,000 people participated, were organized by the MPIQ to form a resistance movement against the church tax. On March 5, 1972, 500 people demonstrated and extensive propaganda was done against the *Loi des Fabriques*. The struggle is still going on, with much participation by the community.

The bishop attacked the demonstrators in an interview in an Italian newspaper. So did *Il Corriere Italiano*, which referred to them as "disgusting." It is interesting to note that *Il Corriere Italiano* has been doing open propaganda since April for the neo-fascist *Movimento Sociale Italiano* and put up fares for Italian residents so that they could vote for the neo-fascists in the Italian elections.

Objectives

The MPIQ as a political movement working amidst an ethnic minority is independent of any other organization. This is primarily due to the nonexistence of a

workers' party in Quebec. As a result, ethnic minority workers must organize themselves and struggle for unity with other minority workers.

On the ethnic level the Movement attacks problems particular to Italian workers which are a result of the process of immigration. On the working class level it confronts issues and supports struggles involving Quebec workers as a whole, such as the general strike of the Common Front.

The objectives of the MPIQ are the development of other district committees and the extension of its organization into workplaces in industries with a high concentration of Italians. Complete unity with other ethnic workers is the long-term objective.

Other Organizations of Italian Workers

The need to develop other organizations for Italian workers is also being recognized in the community. In June 1972 progressive elements formed the Federation of Italian Emigrant Workers and Families, which struggles for the reacquisition of rights and forms of security lost by the immigrants due to their exodus from Italy.

Only a small percentage of Italian workers in Quebec are unionized. The need for building an organization to carry out this work has often been thought of but never put into practice.

Joseph Gargiso is a member of the Mouvement Progressiste Italo-Québécois.

FRESHMAN RECEPTION

AT HILLEL 3460 STANLEY ST.

Dear Freshman & otherwise,

Once again your friendly McGill Hillel Student Society (MHSS or just plain Hillel) is bringing you a whole host of Freshman Reception activities.

(For obvious reasons, the poet wishes to remain anonymous)

And now without further ado
We bring the following to you:

September 19—22 Free Felafel on the 3rd floor—12:00-2:00

Tues. September 19—Wine & Cheese Party 7:30 pm

Wed. Sept. 20—3:00 pm Succah Building party
In front of the F.D.A.

Thurs. Sept. 21—3:00 pm Succah Decorating Party
In front of Burnside Hall
Refreshments when we're all finished

7:00 pm—Israeli dancing with Sue Baxt beside the succah

Wed. Sept. 27—Lunchtime Theatre: NFB Shorts, cartoons, &/or anything else that Allen might come up with.

Looking forward to meeting you,

Love,

Ken, Cyril, Bluma, Harvey, Kathy, Allen and the rest of the gang.

P.S. FOR MORE INFO CALL 845-9171

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Government clarifies student voting rights

OTTAWA (CUP)—University students may vote where they live while at school, if they consider that dwelling their "ordinary residence", Canada's chief electoral officer said last week.

The statement by J.M. Hamel appeared to contradict earlier indications that enumerators would hinder students attempting to register to vote in their university constituencies in the October 30 federal election.

"If a student tells the enumerator his ordinary residence is room 105 in a certain university residence, well that's it," he said. "We cannot ask any more from a student than we can from any other citizen. We don't ask other people for proof of age or of citizenship. No more so can we ask for proof that a student is really on his own. If a student says he's on his own, then we'll have to accept that."

Under the new Elections Act of 1970 students lost the right to be enumerated in both their parents' home constituencies and in their university ridings. Instead, Parliament gave them the right to vote by proxy in their parents' constituency if they couldn't be there on election day.

Regulations from Hamel's office directed enumerators to determine whether students living "away from home" were "on their own". If they were, they could vote in their university riding, but if they were not they could be enumerated only at their parents' home.

"All we are asking enumerators to do if they are in doubt is to ask students if they would be willing to take an oath about the location of their ordinary residence if challenged on election day," Hamel said in an interview.

"It's a personal decision a student must make by his own conscience," he added.

In directives sent to local returning officers last January, Hamel said "enumerators should be instructed that whenever an occupant of a dwelling describes his occupation as 'student' they should determine which of the four basic situations applies to that person by determining the relationship of that person to the other occupants of the dwelling and the nature and frequency of that person's occupancy."

(The four situations were married, single living at home, single living away from home, and single on their own.)

The tone of Hamel's instructions indicated enumerators would be scrupulous in ensuring that only students who were financially independent of their parents would be enumerated in university ridings.

But Hamel said today that stu-

dents could vote in university ridings if they wanted to.

"I want to emphasize that we're not going to submit students to a means test," he said.

But local returning officers have contacted university residence officials to determine "which students, if any, should be enumerated", according to Hamel's earlier regulations.

Hamel explained today that the move was designed to save time, and that any student who was not included on the list provided by residence officials could meet an enumerator in a residence common room and get placed on the voters list.

"In Edmonton this morning we got a report that authorities in a university residence said that 150 students might claim the building as their ordinary residence, but now there will be as many as 700 on the list," he said.

"So residence authorities have nothing to do with the result. They're just saving us the time needed to knock on every resi-

dence door and allowing us to allocate the appropriate number of enumerators," the chief electoral officer added.

The Election Act itself only mentions students in its section on proxies. All other rulings for student voting are interpretations from Hamel's office.

National New Democratic Party secretary Clifford Scotton said today he is certain students can choose where they want to vote, and is unaware of Hamel's memos indicating anything to the contrary.

"I have a daughter at York and I provide support for her but I consider her on her own. I expect she will vote there," he said. "The unquestionable right to vote where the student pleases must be established," he added.

Hamel claimed such a principle violates the spirit of the Election Act but that students could not be prevented from considering their university dwelling their ordinary residence if they were willing to swear it on election day.

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*Bennett Little
Executive Applications Director*

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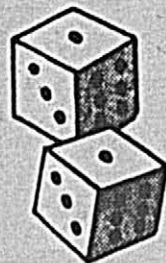
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